Government are aware of the report from a section of the press quoting findings of some private researchers regarding the prevalence of various health disorders among the inhabitants of certain areas of high background radiation in Quilon district of Kerala.

The Department of Atomic Energy has been conducting experiments to quantify the effects, if any, of radiation on the population. So far, on adverse effects which are statistically significant have been seen. This is possible because thE predicted effects are very small and are difficult to be identified against the normal incidence of these effects.

(c) The Department of Atomic Energy is currently funding the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum to carry out a detailed health survey in the Karunagappally Taluk. This independent study is expected to throw light on the adverse effects if any, of high background radiation in Kerala.

Investigation/Prosecution of Officers on Corruption Charges

5688. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the All India and Central Services, service-wise, under investigation or prosecution on charges of corruption as on April 1, 1991 on the basis of acquisition or possession of assets disproportionate to their known income;

(b) the number of such officers investigated, suspended dismissed or forced to resign on such charges during 1990-91 service-wise, with the year of commencement of investigation;

(c) whether the Senior Executives of the Central Public Sector Undertakings, including the Chairman and Managing Directors are also covered by the same disciplinary process as the officers of the All India and Central Services; and

(d) if so, the corresponding number of such Public Sector officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Charging of High Rates for Various Items

5689. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to SQ 441 on August 14, 1991 and state:

(a) the details of the companies/ stockists/suppliers/manufacturers who have been charging rates differently along with the names of the items;

(b) details of the trade practices followed by such agencies, institution-wise/ market-wise;

(c) whether no objection was taken of the discriminatory trade policy of those agencies;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) the details of the overhead expenses incurred by the Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar between June 1, 1990 to May 31, 1991 and how do these compare with the previous three years; and

(f) the steps taken to bring down the overhead expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). In the reply to Lok Sabha